Pages from a Summer Sketch Book

F. H. LANGFORD, '08.

I.—SEEN FROM THE WINDOW OF A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.

THE country where my trip began is something like my life has been of late—monotonously level. (I had just finished the annual "grind" of May.) Ups and downs, both in a landscape and in life, give more than mere variety; they lend value. Flat lands produce little but willow shrubs and a coarse grass that must be sadly lacking in nutrition, and so, I fancy, is it with the life that never varies from the dead level.

The monotony in the landscape didn't last long, however, for soon the ground became hilly enough to suit the most jaded taste. One freshly-plowed knoll carried to my mind an irresistible impression of a huge fist, whose brown knuckles were seamed by constant toil, and another slope, wood-crowned, brought to me sweet, half-lonely memories of the dear old home I was leaving behind.

As the train tore past gently sloping, wooded fields, suddenly I caught a refreshing glimpse of a ravine, which broke the level ground. A brook rippled along its bed, and a long, broad ribbon of marsh marigolds gladdened the eye, disappearing with their brook under an old red bridge, just before the ravine lost itself in a tangle of evergreens.

I was immensely interested in a coquettish brook that appeared shortly after, and that I suspected to be the same stream that had parted company from the noisy train some time previously. When I first saw it, it was bounding gaily, joyously along, paying no attention whatever to the course of the rushing engine, but yet never wandering far away. Now it would hide itself in the dark cedars, and again it would come racing back, scattering its spray in the bright sunlight. At one time it would half-conceal its charms behind a leafy screen, dimpling demurely in placid self-approval; at another, it would scold petulantly at the obduracy of some boulder that refused to make way. But slowly the train swerved to the left, and the brook was all but lost, when, with one final and supreme effort to display all

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